



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Montana State Library

<http://www.archive.org/details/srsnewssepoct1973mont>



NEWS

STATE DOCUMENTS

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

VOLUME 3

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1973



NUMBER 4

Judge to Host Aging Conference

Fifth Annual Convention September 10-11



GOVERNOR THOMAS L. JUDGE

Gov. Thomas L. Judge will host the fifth annual Governor's Conference on Aging September 10-11, at the Northern Hotel in Billings.

Bernard E. Nash, Washington, D.C., executive director of the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association, will give the principal address. He will speak at the banquet to be held at 7 o'clock the evening of Sept. 10. Sen. Antoinette Fraser Rosell, Billings, will be toastmistress.

These two organizations with which Nash is affiliated have a

combined membership of more than 4,000,000 persons.

Before assuming his present executive position, Nash was a top official in the National Administration on Aging.

Featured speaker at the luncheon on September 11 will be Robert B. Robinson, Denver, Colo., executive director of the Colorado Commission on Aging and a past president of the National Association of State Units on Aging. Dr. Rulon Garfield, Denver, regional director, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, also will be on the luncheon program. Toastmaster for the noontime banquet will be Sidney T. Smith, state labor commissioner.

Montana Lt. Gov. Bill Christensen will address one session of the Conference.

Other speakers will be Robert H. Binstock, Ph. D., Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., and Carroll Estes, Ph.D., University of California at San Francisco. Doctors Binstock and



BERNARD E. NASH

Estes currently are making a management study of the aging program in Montana under sponsorship of the University of Montana Institute of Social Science Research.

According to Lyle Downing, Montana Aging Services Bureau Chief, who is making arrangements for the conference, the meeting is expected to be very worthwhile and all senior citizens throughout the state are urged to attend.

For fun, a nostalgic musical review entitled "Down Memory Lane" will be staged at the conclusion of the banquet September 10. Director James N. Mc-

(Continued on page 2)

COMMENT —

by Lyle Downing



Three of the nation's top authorities on problems of the aging have been in Montana in the past month to assist the Aging Services Bureau in its efforts to expand programs for elderly citizens. Topping the list of experts was Senator Jennings Randolph, D-W. Va. The other two widely-known experts were Doctor Robert H. Binstock, who received a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Government, Harvard University, and Doctor Carroll Estes, assistant professor in residence at the University of California at San Francisco.

Doctors Binstock and Estes are currently making a management study of the Montana Aging Services Bureau. They will speak at the Fifth Annual Governor's Conference on Aging in Billings on September 10-11, and will participate in workshops there.

Senator Randolph made a hard-hitting speech at the University of Montana where he took part in a workshop for city and county officials. He lashed out at the Nixon administration which he accused of trying to "turn back the hands of time" on programs for the aging.

Senator Randolph was highly critical of President Nixon's vetoes of the Comprehensive Older Americans Service Amendments of 1972. He also objected to the President failing to sign the Research on Aging Act which would have established a

national institute on aging.

"Mr. Nixon did sign a Second Older Americans Act which contained a 1.5 billion reduction in funding, together with the exclusion of the middle aged and older workers training provisions," Jennings declared.

"The year of 1973 brought even more alarming actions by the administration with a moratorium declared on new funding, rent supplements and home ownership."

The West Virginia lawmaker also brought out that the administration urged a phase-out of the Hill-Burton Hospital and Nursing Home program and the regional medical programs as well as regressive social service regulations which unquestionably have had an adverse effect on the elderly.

"Most disheartening of all the proposals," Randolph continued, "were ones in the 1974 budget to cut back medicare services by raising the deductible for doctors' bills from \$60 to \$85, and to increase the patient's co-insurance costs from 20 to 25 per cent of the balance."

Randolph also took exception to an administration proposal which could add millions to hospital costs for medicare patients throughout the nation.

Governor Thomas L. Judge has issued a statement urging senior citizens to attend the Governor's Conference at the Northern Hotel if possible.

Downing Elected To Aging Board

Lyle Downing, chief of the State Aging Services Bureau and editor of the SRS News, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Units on Aging.

His election came at the association's annual meeting this summer in Washington, D.C.

Downing will represent the six-state federal region, which includes Montana, Colorado, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The former newsmen has been chief of Aging Services since 1966.

Governor's Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Bride and a company of ten professional entertainers have been engaged for the one-hour production.

Conference sessions will start at 1:30 September 10 in the hotel. A group of state and federal officials will outline programs dealing with problems of the aging in Montana. David T. Berg, M.D., Helena, retired physician and surgeon and an authority on geriatrics, will moderate the panel.

Medicaid Coverage Extended

About 14,000 Montanans whose incomes are above welfare standards but not enough to cover their medical bills have become eligible under new legislation for the Medically Needy Program.

One of the basic goals of this program, as explained by William Ikard, chief, Medical Assistance Bureau, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, is to keep people off welfare by paying medical expenses for those just above the welfare standards. The plan is financed by federal, state and county money.

Persons who qualify as Medically Needy are required under this program to pay a small monthly premium. Coverage includes such services, among others, as hospitalization; doctor care; eye examinations; dental care; drugs and

other medication; outpatient hospital and laboratory expenses; home health services; physical, speech and occupational therapy; family planning services, and mental health clinic care.

Application for Medically Needy assistance may be made at county welfare offices where eligibility requirements will be explained.

Persons with income not more than one-third above welfare standards are eligible, reports Ikard. He points out that persons with large, continuing medical expenses will become eligible for Medically Needy aid if they spend on medical costs all of their income down to one-third above welfare.

Senate Bill-36, which extends Medicaid coverage to these persons just above the welfare standard, was enacted during the 1973 legislative session. It was Governor Thomas L. Judge's top priority for social legislation.

Enjoy yourself! These are the "Good Old Days" you're going to miss in 1984.

OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKERS for the Governor's Conference are Robert Binstock, left, Ph. D., expert on aging from Brandeis University, and Montana's Lt. Gov. Bill Christiansen.



Law Strengthens Control of Abuse

"The State Bureau of Child Welfare has long been concerned with the number of unreported cases of child abuse. We believe recent legislation will be helpful in assuring more complete reporting."

The words of Joseph Roe, chief, child welfare bureau, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, express confidence in the bill ratified by the 1973 Legislature to amend the child abuse law. The amendment, which became effective July 1, provides broader ways and means of reporting child abuse and neglect.

Roe underscores the fact that action can be taken when child abuse is recognized by the bureau. However, too many cases, he believes, go unreported and the abuse or neglect continues to the detriment of the child's development and sometimes to the point of death of the child.

The amendment, Roe states, makes the State SRS, the county Departments of Public Welfare and the county attorneys available as agencies to which such reports may be made.

Incidents of known or suspected child abuse may be reported in writing or by visiting or phoning these offices.

Under the new legislation, persons who may make these reports, regarding an individual under the age of 18, include any attending physician, nurse, teacher, social worker, attorney,

(Continued on page 6)

SRS, HES To Offer Home Health Services

A cooperative program for providing home health care services has been agreed upon between the State Departments of Social and Rehabilitation Services and Health and Environmental Sciences.

The agreement was signed by Theodore Carkulis, director, SRS, and Dr. John Anderson, director HES, in an effort to improve Montana services.

The joint plan has gone into effect with the objective of preventing or, at least delaying, costly in-patient care. The home health services, which are an alternative to institutional care, deliver preventive, curative and rehabilitative ministrations to the aged, including those terminally ill.

The program is being conducted primarily in the rural areas of Montana, according to Paul Miller, staff development specialist, Special Services Division, SRS. Miller was one of those contributing his efforts to getting the program under way. Working with him were Mrs. Virginia Kenyon, chief of the Nursing Bureau, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences; Beverly Mitchell, also of the nursing services bureau; Margaret Kerns, medical service specialist, Economic Assistance Division, SRS, and Don Sekora, social services specialist, Community Services Division, SRS.

As Miller explains, the State Board of Health has basic responsibility for the home health services but doesn't have enough personnel in the field to cover all the program's needs.

SRS has the manpower, so where mutual clients exist the two agencies will work together to supplement and improve the care each is able to give.

Health care coverage under the cooperative program ranges from making certain patients are

taking any prescribed medication, giving shots and changing bandages, to bathing patients and clipping nails to cleaning house. Personnel involved in home health care range from registered nurses to homemakers.



LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY HOMEMAKER Bertha Proul, right, learns to bathe a bed-ridden patient. This is a service she and other homemakers may provide under the home health care agreement between SRS and the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Showing Mrs. Proul the proper technique is Alice J. McCarthy, public health coordinator.

G.I. Bill Aids Veterans' Power For Learning

College graduates have an average lifetime income that is \$237,000 more than that of persons with only a high school diploma—\$608,000 compared to \$371,000.

The earning averages from the Department of Labor studies were stressed by Charles C. Walter, director of the Fort Harrison Veterans Administra-

tion Center in urging the use of G.I. Bill training by Vietnam Veterans.

Under the G.I. Bill, school-bound, single veterans receive \$220 a month for full-time training, up to a maximum of 36 months of school attendance, or a total of \$7,920. The monthly allowance is increased for veterans with dependents.

Those veterans in college on a half-time or more basis can now be tutored. Under the G.I. Bill, VA will pay veterans up to \$50 a month for a maximum of \$450 for tutorial assistance.



AN AGREEMENT to make a management study on aging in Montana is signed by Lyle Downing, center, Montana Aging Services Bureau chief, and Robert H. Binstock, left, and Carroll Estes, right, both Ph.D.'s and experts on the problems of aging. Binstock is a professor at Brandeis University and Estes is a resident professor at the University of California, San Francisco. The study is being sponsored by the University of Montana Institute of Social Science Research.

Protective Services Available by Law

Protective services for the developmentally disabled are for the first time being provided by law through the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Before passage of this act by the 1973 Legislature, protective services on a legal base were available to the developmentally disabled only until such individuals reached the age of 18.

The new statute protects those persons suffering from a physiological disorder of the nervous system, such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy or epilepsy, which originated before the person's eighteenth birthday.

Protective services, provided for by the law, include supervision; protection of the person and his money and property

from exploitation; identification of and help to correct hazardous living conditions for the individual who is unable to protect or care for himself, and when appropriate, making the court aware of the existence of cases where care is needed.

As explained by Margaret Stuart, chief of family and children's services, SRS, protective services may be requested by the family of a developmentally disabled person, an agency of SRS, any interested party or the individual himself.

Although not a welfare program, the procedure will be handled through the county welfare departments.

The protective services provided could be on a voluntary

request basis or court action could be petitioned to make the developmentally disabled person a ward of the agency. Where protective services include the management of money or property, court action is required even in cases where the request for such service is voluntary. In such situations, SRS must report periodically to the court on the handling of money or property.

Previously, Mrs. Stuart noted, parents faced the concern of what would happen to a developmentally disabled child if they were to die. Under the new law a parent may, in his will, name SRS as guardian or he may name the department as guardian or trustee of the developmentally disabled person, to assume such duties during the parent's lifetime.

Under the new law SRS must provide or arrange for services which will aid the developmentally disabled person to function to his fullest extent as an independent, self-sufficient person. These services may include, among others, food and clothing, education, training for employment, medical services, legal services, participation in community activities and financial budgeting. Persons unable to function as independent individuals may be afforded such services as nursing home care, day care, group home placement or homemaker assistance.

A "rebirth of individual responsibility to meet the ever increasing needs of the elderly" is encouraged by the "Humanitarian Senator" Jennings Randolph, D-W. Va.

Judge Sees Dikewood's Operations

Cathode ray tube computer terminals connected by phone to a computer in Albuquerque, N.M., are compiling medical service histories on Montana Medicaid recipients.

The Dikewood Corporation, a health care information service out of Albuquerque, is working with the Medical Assistance Bureau of the Economic Assistance Division, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services to gather and sort the information.

Head of the operation in Helena is Parkie Johnston. Although he is from the home base in Albuquerque, all of his 18 employees are Helena residents.

Through its computerized checks on utilization and dispersion of Medicaid services, Dikewood is expected to save money for the State of Montana. This is possible by detecting misuse of Medicaid by both medical personnel and persons under their care.

Checks are run to compare medical claims received by the assistance bureau with charges compiled by such providers of services as doctors, dentists and pharmacists. Comparisons are made between such items as costs and descriptions of services performed. Cooperation between Dikewood and the Medical Assistance Bureau will help, for example, to control the filing of claims for services that were not performed.



GOV. THOMAS L. JUDGE is pictured viewing a piece of equipment used by the Dikewood Corp. medical management system. The firm has been hired by Montana to run computerized checks on utilization and dispersion of Medicaid services. To the governor's right is Jack Carlson, administrator, Division of Economic Assistance, SRS. Standing to his left are Bill Ikard, chief, Bureau of Medical Assistance, SRS, and Theodore Carkulis, SRS director.

The system will watch for under-utilization of services as well, thereby preventing money from being wasted. William Ikard, chief of the Medical Assistance Bureau, gives some examples.

He says, if a patient does not fill a prescription given him by his doctor, the cost of a doctor visit may have been wasted. "We want to be sure," states Ikard, "that the client gets maximum benefit out of the services we pay for."

Also, he notes, if the patient receives the initial care he requires, his problems may be cured before they worsen and necessitate more extensive and expensive treatment.

In addition, the Dikewood system is designed to speed payments to the providers of medical care.

Child Abuse

(Continued from page 3)

law enforcement officer or any other person who has reason to believe a child has had serious injury inflicted upon him as the result of abuse or neglect.

"I wish to emphasize," says Roe, "that the identity of any person reporting the mistreatment of a child will remain anonymous. The information revealed will be used only for the purpose of protecting the child and preserving the family. We know we're not getting the full report of abuse and neglect. Hopefully, the new amendment will open the way to providing protection for our children, especially in the areas of malnutrition and sexual abuse.

Supplementary Security Income

Beginning January 1, 1974, a new federal program known as supplementary security income will begin making monthly payments to aged, blind and disabled people who have limited income, property and possessions.

Persons eligible for supplementary security income (S.S.I.), are those who are eligible to receive welfare assistance payments in December of 1973. Such persons do not need to apply for supplementary security income. These new payments will be received automatically in January by persons who receive a welfare payment in December.

Payments from S.S.I. will take the place of welfare payments to the aged, blind and disabled whose assets and income are limited. Eligible persons may not receive both. They may collect only supplementary security income.

Monthly social security checks, however, will not be affected by the new S.S.I. program.

Aged, blind and disabled persons who have been receiving welfare may get a small increase when the new program goes into effect, according to Jack Carlson, Administrator, Division of Economic Assistance, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services. All persons in this category collecting a welfare check this December can be assured that the S.S.I. payments they begin receiving in January will not be less than the December payments. This assurance comes

from SRS and the Social Security Administration.

Basically, Medicare and Medicaid will not be affected by the change to supplementary security income, says Bill Ikard, chief, Medical Assistance Bureau, SRS. More people may be eligible because the S.S.I. regulations allow a wider range of eligibility according to income and resources.

Shirley Miller Is New Chief of Youth Unit

The Youth Development Bureau of the Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services has a new chief.

She is Shirley Miller who has been promoted from assistant bureau chief to replace Jack Vaughn. Mrs. Miller has been with YDB since its inception in 1971. Prior to that she was with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as director of Project Talent Search. She also supervised the Drug Education Program, the Designing Education for the Future Program and Urban-Rural School Development.

Vaughn, the former YDB chief, has joined the Department of Revenue as chief of the investigation bureau.

The new assistant bureau chief for Youth Development, filling Mrs. Miller's former post, is Charlie McCarthy. A past executive director of the Mount Powell Economic Council in Anaconda.

Veterans Complete Busy Year

The value of initial benefits derived from veterans' claims during the past fiscal year was \$5,594,418, according to David W. Armstrong, Jr., administrator, Montana Veterans Affairs Division of the State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Armstrong reports that the Veterans Affairs Division has completed one of the busiest years in its history. The demand for service has increased, he says, because the number of veterans in the state has expanded and because the Montana veterans of World Wars I and II are becoming older and requiring more aid. "Montana," he adds, "now has a veteran population of 100,000, up more than 20,000 from a few years ago."

During the past year, the state veterans' affairs office in Helena and the eight field offices throughout the state made more than 51,000 personal contacts with veterans and their dependents.

More than 4,200 claims for hospitalization, dental care, compensation, pension, death benefits, insurance and education were filed with the Veterans Administration by the division service offices on behalf of veterans and their dependents. Nearly half of these claims, reports Armstrong, were for education benefits for Vietnam era veterans.

In submitting these various claims, he notes, more than 11,000 supporting documents were gathered.

Visual Services Moves To New Offices



THE LEADED GLASS window and old-time light fixture recollect days gone past in the newly remodeled office of Visual Services Director Emil Honka.

Out-Patient Cards Help

The Veterans Administration currently is paying compensation to hundreds of veterans of World War I for service connected disabilities, however, many of these veterans never have requested an out-patient card which entitles them to treatment in their own communities.

"I would strongly urge all veterans with such disabilities to ask for an out-patient card," says David W. Armstrong Jr., administrator, Division of Veterans Affairs, Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Armstrong points out that a VA out-patient card is important in enabling veterans to be treated by a physician for their service connected injuries and to subsequently request an increase in compensation. A VA out-

(Continued on Page 9)

When a man forgets himself he usually does something everybody else remembers.



THE ROUGH BRICK wall in the office of Bill Gannon, orientation-mobility specialist, lends a warm, country feeling to the comfortable office which used to be the garage in the newly remodeled visual services building.

A touch of old Helena blends with the newly settled offices of the SRS Visual Services Division at 11th and Davis Streets in Helena.

The interior of the brick building, which used to house the Montana State Board of Nursing, has been completely remodeled, carpeted and painted. Until its move this summer, Visual Services headquarters was at 15th and Main.

Housed in the new offices are Emil Honka, director, Visual Services Division; Bill Gannon, orientation and mobility specialist; Joe Baumgardner and Sharon Cromeenes, counselor supervisors; Dick Field, business enterprise supervisor; Mary Meyer, secretary, and Cleo Robinson, clerk-stenographer II.

Out-Patient Cards

(Continued from page 8)

patient card is necessary for veterans to be treated for these injuries at the VA's expense.

Those wishing assistance in obtaining a card may contact VA division service offices in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Miles City, Missoula or Wolf Point.

According to Armstrong, literally hundreds of veterans were rated for their service connected disabilities ten, twenty, thirty years ago and never have been re-evaluated. These individuals, he says, should have their disabilities re-examined to see if they have worsened and to determine if the veterans are eligible for an increase in compensation.

Carroll College Holds Classes For Seniors

Expanded horizons and the excitement of learning are offered to senior citizens by Carroll College in Helena.

For \$10 a semester any person over 60 years of age may enroll in a full or part-time academic schedule.

Senior citizens from throughout the state are invited to take advantage of Carroll's offering. As Tom Cavanagh, Carroll's information director, pointed out, even persons visiting relatives in Helena or the vicinity for a few months may be interested in taking a course or two.

Registration for fall semester is September 4 and 5, and classes begin September 6. Catalogs and

class schedules, including evening courses, are available from the registrar's office at Carroll.

Requirements for enrollment do not include previous education, degrees or course prerequisites. General knowledge or experience may suffice for prerequisites.

College credit is not automatically given. However, for a small extra charge it can be received. Special course fees, such as for chemistry test tubes, are not covered by the \$10.

Last year, according to Cavanagh, senior citizens studied courses ranging from Greek to philosophy to human behavior.

Food Program Transferred

The federal agency of Montana's food and nutrition program has been transferred from the San Francisco western regional office to the west-central office in Dallas.

The announcement was made in Helena by Jack Carlson, administrator, Division of Economic Assistance, Social and Rehabilitation Services. Although food and nutrition is under direct management of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it is administered by the State economic assistance office.

The change in offices is the result of realignment of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service regions to conform with a Presidential directive to improve federal-state activities and administration of the food programs. Montana, Wyoming and Utah all were included in the transfer.

Recently Charles Ernst, administrator, Western Region, USDA, FNS, and Martin Garber, administrator, West-Central Region, were in Helena to meet with Montana administrators of the food and nutrition program. Out of the meeting came word of a proposal that the federal government contribute 80 percent to food stamp issuance. This would mean, according to Carlson, that when an individual takes his authorization for food stamps to the post office, the post office will give him the stamps and carry out the transaction and the government may pay the post office 80 cents to complete the transaction. Currently federal money, at the rate of 66½ percent, is allowed only to determine the eligibility of those needing food stamps.

Present at the meeting with the regional directors, in addition to Carlson, were Russ Willsey, assistant administrator, West-Central Region, USDA, FNS; Theodore Carkulis, director, SRS; Mike Fitzgerald, administrative assistant to Governor Thomas L. Judge; Michael Caplis, chief, Eligibility Determination Bureau, Division of Economic Assistance, SRS; Charles Willis, commodity distribution supervisor, and Mike Weggeman, commodity field representative, Division of Economic Assistance, SRS.

One-hundred-one-year-old Fredrak W. Fraske of Chicago is the only living veteran of the Indian Wars (about 1817-1898). Fraske served in the Army from February 1894 to May 1907.

Anniversary For Seniors

Six and a half years ago the first senior citizen center in Montana was created in Bozeman with the help of a \$10,698 grant from the State Aging Services Bureau (formerly the Commission on Aging).

The program was sponsored by the Gallatin County Methodist Extension Society. Donald P. Redfield, retired Bozeman Methodist minister, was its first director.

About 120 persons formed the center's initial membership. Since that time, although 46 members have died, the enrollment has increased to 184.

The original center was on Main Street in a rented store next door to the movie theater. The center still is on Main Street but now it is located above a sporting goods store. Its two spacious rooms—one a brilliant, sunny yellow matched by the old-fashioned country quilt being pieced together by women of the center and the other a cool, refreshing blue—fill up every afternoon and evening with friendly folks with a variety of interests.

A long flight of stairs up to the Senior Citizens Center is a handicap and prevents some persons from being able to partake of the facility's good times and good will, according to several of the members with friends and acquaintances who would otherwise visit the center. No elevator or escalator leads to the second floor where the center is located.

At the top of the stairs, persons who are able to make the climb find a wide array of hobbies, crafts, games and educational opportunities awaiting them. Card games, quilting, arts and crafts, movies, book reviews and a dance every Saturday night are among the activities available. And, of course, as current Director Joyce Dynes mentions, nostalgic conversation is one of the best activities. The seniors also enjoy potluck suppers and pancake breakfasts. Tours to points of interest and special activities

throughout the state are made now and then too.

Members of the Gallatin County Senior Citizens' Center participate in the Meals-on-Wheels Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the American Association of Retired Persons.

The Bozeman center now is being funded by a mill levy from the county and aid from independent residents.

Montana has 67 senior citizen centers and more are being started all the time.



MARY MARX, pictured here, is one of the Bozeman's Senior Citizens whose handicrafts are displayed in the senior center. Her specialties are afghans and pillows. Patchwork quilts are a joint project worked on by several women at the center, including the group's oldest member Mabel Ballantyne who is 93.

ACTION GRANT

An ACTION grant of \$51,000 has been awarded to the Aging Services Bureau, SRS, for operation of the Foster Grandparent Program, according to Mike Balzano, Washington, D.C., director of the citizens' service corps.

Foster Grandparents offers opportunities for low-income men and women over the age of 60 to give companionship and guidance to emotionally, physically and mentally handicapped children in institutions. The one-year grant will enable the agency to place 40 volunteers as Foster Grandparents for 80 disadvantaged and physically handicapped children.

MACCY Aids Montana Youth

Quality life for Montana youth—a discussion of environment, ecology, land-use and energy development will be the theme of the September MACCY meeting at Big Sky.

The 7th, 8th and 9th are the dates for the gathering of the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth (MACCY), an agency to build programs and recommend action to help Montanans deal with major issues confronting children and youth.

MACCY may have the distinction of being the only such council in the United States whose membership is 50 percent youth, according to program coordinator Gerry Fenn.

Since its creation three years ago by governor's order, more than 7,000 persons have been involved in 200 workshops on issues affecting children and youth.

MACCY does not make motions and resolutions to carry home to the local communities but rather serves as a gatherer and dispenser of information, ideas and possible solutions. The suggestions and data are presented by MACCY members in their own localities, and, through cooperation of the council and members of its communities, are implemented, rearranged or rejected to fit each area.

A publication entitled "What's It All About?" has been released by MACCY to explain its function, structure and primary concerns. Single copies may be obtained by writing Miss Fenn at P. O. Box 1723, Helena, Mt. 59601.

MACCY, as Miss Fenn explains, has no officers or by-laws and members are invited to bring their families to all the meetings to stimulate open discussion.

A major accomplishment by MACCY has been getting Section 15 into Article 2 of the 1972 constitution. This gives all the basic rights of the Montana Constitution to all persons under 18.

The council also has sponsored five television spot announcements on child rearing. They were produced by the Montana State University Film and Television Department and furnished to stations throughout the state.

Monitoring of state legislation affecting children and youth has been another function of the council.



MIRRORING TO MUSIC—you do what I do and vice-versa—encouraged relaxation and interaction between participants in the last MACCY meeting, which was held in Glendive this spring.



THE FLIPPER-DINGER, a folk toy from the Appalachian Mountains, was intriguing to a small guest at the spring MACCY meeting in Glendive.

Receiving Home Gives Comfort To Children

A shelter to offer comfort in times of crisis is the Great Falls Children's Receiving Home, Inc.

Though a temporary, emergency refuge, the receiving home looks and feels as much like a friend's warm home as possible. It is supervised by carefully selected foster parents—a young married couple, Steve and Charlotte Thompson. They have 24-hour-a-day duty at the home. In addition, each child taken into the home has a social worker assigned to him.

The receiving home opens its doors to children referred from police or other sources because of neglect, abandonment, abuse or because of an emergency situation in the child's home. They may stay from one to sixty days. They stay only until the situation in their own home has been rectified enough to warrant their return, or if that is impossible, until a foster home has been found to care for them.

Space is provided for 15 children up to 18 years of age. Since May, when the home began operation, the average length of stay of its occupants has been ten to twelve days. This is the report of the home's president, Jack Holzberger. As the operation of the home becomes established, Holzberger expects the home to house about ten children on a daily average.

Facilities for the receiving home are being rented from St. Thomas home, a multi-purpose



SNUGGLY PATCHWORK QUILTS and a stuffed panda who knows how to comfort a child contribute a feeling of warmth and security to the Great Falls Children's Receiving Home.

child care unit. St. Thomas includes such programs as permanent foster care, day care and Montessori classes. Cascade County and the State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services share the majority of the cost. The remainder is paid by individual contributions.

As Holzberger points out, thoughtful care and planning are necessary so there is as little emotional turmoil as possible for the children. The home tries to provide as much of a family atmosphere as it can to set its children at ease. Children from the entire Great Falls area are accepted.

MAR Meets At Big Sky

Theme of the annual Montana Association for Rehabilitation conference is "Developmental Disabilities" and will encompass

cerebral palsy, mental retardation and epilepsy.

MAR believes the October 18 and 19 conference at Big Sky will be of interest to a variety of disciplines. MAR members will be contacted about preregistration. Others interested in attending may write Ben Webinger at 507 Power Block, Helena, Mt. 59601, or phone him at 449-3194.

At the conference Dr. Roy Wright, neurologist at the University of Colorado Medical Center, will conduct a workshop on epilepsy. Montana state Rep. Gary Marbut, Missoula, has tentatively agreed to address the conference on needs of the developmentally disabled in Montana. Rehabilitation facilities will be discussed by Claude Whitehead, Washington, D.C., field representative for the International Association for Rehabilitation Facilities.

Other speakers will deal with the medical aspects of cerebral palsy, and etiology and development of mental retardation.

Community Education

The Youth Development Bureau has noted an upswing in efforts of communities across the state to develop Community Education Programs since Terry Thirsk, Community Education intern sponsored in Montana by YDB, toured the state this spring.

Thirsk's task, according to YDB, was to help cities and towns realize the potential for increased awareness and the possibilities for individual development in all areas of education.

In Helena, the superintendent of schools has appointed a committee to look into the advantages of community education and to assess what schools currently are providing for the community. At least one Helena PTA plans to conduct an interest survey in its neighborhood as soon as school starts this fall.

In Lewistown, a survey of adults concerning what type of education and course work would interest them already has been completed. Ron Mattson, superintendent of schools, says, "The requests range from bridge to vocational courses to highly academic subjects. Since we already have adult education, this survey will help us in broadening what we have. There will be more classes and they will continue throughout more of the year."

As Thirsk explained during his stay in Montana, continuing education for everyone is the goal of Community Education, and towns throughout Montana adhering to this concept are insuring that their citizens will have the opportunity to keep learning all of their lives.

Medicare For Widows

Widows who have been getting survivors payments from social security but who have been severely disabled for the last two years may be eligible for Medicare as of July 1, but they must file a disability claim.

According to Jack Sharp, social security district manager in Helena, Medicare previously has been available only to people 65 years of age and over. Starting in July, however, the government health care insurance was extended automatically to all disabled people under 65 providing they have received monthly social security disability payments for two years or more.

"But some severely disabled widows 50 and over have never applied for disability payments," Sharp says. "Generally they've been getting social security survivors benefits because they're 60 or over or they've been getting benefits as widowed mothers who have young or

disabled children in their care.

"To get Medicare, these widows must file a claim for disability payments," he continues. "As soon as possible they should call, write or visit any social security office. If a widow is unable to make the contact a friend or relative may help. If necessary, arrangements can be made for a social security representative to visit her."

Cook Appointed Fitness Chairman

Marshall Cook of Bozeman has been appointed by Governor Thomas L. Judge as chairman of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Cook is an associate professor of physical education at Montana State University. He was trainer for MSU's track and field team for 12 years and has been an associate professor for five. He was trainer for the U.S. track and field team at the 1959 Pan Am Games and he has been a member of the Governor's physical fitness council since its inception in 1972.

Judge says that Cook has done an outstanding job of helping to organize the council which has, until recently, been without funds or staff.

The Youth Development Bureau of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has become the primary source of funds behind the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Other money is coming from the League of Cities and Towns and the State.

The overall goal of the board is to point up the need for an Office of Physical Fitness,

(Continued on Page 14)

Cook Appointed

(Continued from page 13)

Recreation and Lifetime Sports and to encourage the 1974 Legislature to recognize this need.

In addition to announcing Cook's chairmanship, the Governor also announced the appointment of Clayton Linebarger as executive secretary to the council.

Linebarger has been the Helena city-school recreation director since June, 1972.

According to Judge, "Physical fitness is of utmost importance to the young as well as the older citizens of this society. Good health is one of the most vital areas of personal well-being and as a society we have become somewhat negligent in this area."

Judge notes it is the purpose of Linebarger's office to make an immediate assessment of all state agencies which have a legislative responsibility in areas of physical fitness and recreation, as well as to gather a consensus of private organizations and community physical fitness and recreation activities.

Judge believes this assessment will show a great deal of overlapping and duplication of efforts in the areas of recreation and physical fitness in some communities and severe lack of recreational programs in many Montana communities.

He says it is his hope that Linebarger's office, with the help of the League of Cities and Towns and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, can achieve a coordinated and efficient recreation and physical fitness program in every Montana community.



A JAUNT through the Capitol City on the Last Chance tour train pleased a number of senior citizens from Ryegate, Harlowtown and Lavina. The group of about 40 arrived in the heat of summer for a two-day tour of Helena and the Gates of the Mountains.

STATE OF MONTANA SRS NEWS

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Circulation 10,900 copies

Published by the Department of
Social and Rehabilitation Services

Lyle Downing	Editor
Susan Kirkpatrick	Managing Editor
Minna Miller	Circulation Clerk

For information write

Aging Services Division

P. O. Box 1723

Helena, Mt. 59601

Address all communications to Aging Services Division, P. O. Box 1723, Helena, Montana 59601

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
17 Paid
Helena, Montana 59601
Permit No. 70

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 E LYNDALL
HELENA MT 59601

342C4



Helena Senior Center
Box 721
Helena, Montana 59601

